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Report of the Secretary-General

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Mexico

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Studies conducted by the United Nations indicate that a nuclear war would pose the risk of environmental damage on a global scale. A significant nuclear exchange might even have other environmental consequences. Mexico reiterates its support for environmental conservation through strict observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control.

As a practical measure to promote the objectives set out in General Assembly resolution 60/60, the Government of Mexico reiterates its commitment to implementation of the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and full compliance with the provisions of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Within the framework of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Rarotonga Treaty, the Pelindaba Treaty and the Treaty of Bangkok) in April 2005, Mexico, together with other countries, led the discussion of issues relating to the observance of environmental norms and radioactive waste. The Conference reaffirmed the now 10-year-old conclusion of the International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion that the effects of nuclear weapons cannot be contained in either space or time, and expressed its genuine concern regarding the risks of environmental damage and proliferation posed by plutonium reprocessing and the transportation of nuclear materials.

In order to demonstrate its commitment to observing environmental norms relating to international security and disarmament, Mexico has acceded to treaties such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and is carrying out the necessary legal procedures for acceptance of the amendments to that Convention. It is also making the necessary internal arrangements that will enable it to sign and implement other instruments, such as the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, which undoubtedly help to strengthen norms aimed at ensuring the observance of environmental norms with respect to nuclear weapons and energy.

Through the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Mexico has studied the capacity of international monitoring system technology to generate vital information for early warning of natural disasters.